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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/538,474	06/07/2005	Andreas Wolfert	272974US0PCT	2264
22850 7590 03/26/2007 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER PUTTLITZ, KARL J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1621	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		03/26/2007	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 03/26/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/538,474

Applicant(s)

WOLFERT ET AL.

Examiner

Karl J. Puttlitz

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/7/2005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-6 in the reply filed on 3/9/2007 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the different inventions are not independent or distinct, no burden exists in searching the inventions, and unity exists.

This is not found persuasive because Applicant still have not identified any corresponding special technical feature which would demonstrate unity of invention between Groups I and II.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Specification

A brief description of the drawing is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent No. 3631092 to Kan et al., (Kan).

Kan teaches preparation of isocyanates from the phosgenation of amines. The phosgene feed comprises blends of hydrochloride and phosgene in a continuous process (column 3, lines 23+). The primary amines include 1,3-cyclohexandiamine, see column 2, lines 5+. Temperatures are given at column 3. The desired products are given at column 3, lines 60+.

With regard to the mixing times, these parameters are well within the optimization of those of ordinary skill to minimize side products.

The difference between the process covered in the rejected claims and the process disclosed in Kan is that Kan fails to explicitly teach that the hydrogen chloride content of the phosgene feed is from 1.3% to 15% by mass. However, Kan teaches that the mole ration of hydrogen chloride to phosgene may be 1.0:3.0, see column 2, lines 36+. In this regard, the mass percentage by weight of hydrochloride contemplated by the reference includes 12-13%. Therefore, the amounts of hydrogen chloride required by the claims is well within the motivation of those of ordinary skill, based on Kan, and therefore, prima facie obvious.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,234,253 to Cooper et al. (Cooper).

Cooper teaches preparation of isocyanates from the phosgenation of aniline, see column 4, lines 6+. The phosgene feed comprises blends of hydrochloride and phosgene in a secondary reaction zone (column 2, lines 6+). Temperatures are given

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at column 5, lines 13. Toluene diisocyanate is the one of the desired products, see example I.

With regard to the mixing times, these parameters are well within the optimization of those of ordinary skill to minimize side products.

The difference between the process covered in the rejected claims and the process disclosed in Cooper is that Cooper fails to explicitly teach that the hydrogen chloride content of the phosgene feed is from 1.3% to 15% by mass. However, Cooper teaches that it was customary to use a feed of phosgene and hydrogen chloride in a second reaction systemt without further addition of HCl. Therefore, given the excess amounts of phosgene need in the first reactor (see column 2, lines 6-10) the amounts of hydrogen chloride in the feed to the second reactor in the phosgene feed would be expected to be well within the range required by the claims, and therefore, prima facie obvious.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karl J. Puttlitz whose telephone number is (571) 272-0645. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K. Page, can be reached at telephone number (571) 272-0602.

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The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


KARL PUTTLITZ
PATENT EXAMINER

3/16/2007